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Statement submitted by Fondation Ostad Elahi: Ethique et Solidarité Humaine, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-09007 (E) 060616 070616

Please recycle

Statement

Efforts to promote "sustainable lifestyles" (target 4.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), respect for human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, citizenship and other objectives are more likely to succeed if they are supported by education in personal ethics.

Experience gathered over a number of years of various syllabuses — including those in professional training colleges and universities — has led Fondation Ostad Elahi: Ethique et Solidarité Humaine to advocate universal education in personal ethics, in particular in the form of continuing education or on-the-job training, where the interconnection between theory and actual practice can be put into effect immediately.

Personal ethics, which can be defined as selfless goodwill and altruism towards others, and, more generally, as the readiness to take into consideration the rights and duties that are engaged in any situation, is a cross-cutting and indispensable dimension of the principles invoked in target 4.7.

To ensure that respect for those principles is real and lasting, it is desirable that it should take the form of the voluntary espousal of the principles and be informed by an understanding of the reasons which underlie them and of the ways in which they should be applied.

This is precisely the role played by the teaching of personal ethics. For this purpose, there must be awareness:

- Of the parameters involved in the ethical or non-ethical features of our actions: whether they are intentional; the nature of the actions; the context in which they are performed;
- The effects of our actions, which take place at two or even three levels: effects on ourselves; effects on others; and, depending on the nature of the action, effects on the environment;
- The processes at work in the psyche when we perform ethical or unethical actions;
- Endogenous and exogenous brakes on and resistance to the performance of ethical actions; ways of identifying these and neutralizing their effects.

This educational process includes milestones in the social or professional contexts specific to each participant, to give a sense of the realities associated with the application of ethical principles.

Thus, in combination with regular and considered practice, which is itself supported by the appropriate self-assessment tools, education in personal ethics has the effect of entrenching such ethics in the individual with increasing levels of understanding, and will lead ultimately to the emergence of the genuinely human qualities called for in target 4.7.

Insofar as it is based on the observation and testing of causal relations, with a view to establishing objective conditions for the development of such human qualities, personal ethics are comparable to a practical science.

An analogy could be made with the effects of food on our bodies: a healthy and balanced diet contributes to the healthy development of the body; thus, the regular and considered performance of ethical actions constitutes an essential component of the healthy development of the psyche, resulting in a personality which is fully fledged, balanced, responsible and attentive to others and to the environment.

Statement

The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is mandated to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations to Member States on the Agenda's implementation and follow up.

It is important for the Ministerial Declaration of the Forum to highlight the relevance of the role to be played by civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This issue was addressed directly in the Rio+20 Declaration. Civil society has made significant contributions to the outcome documents of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, so it is only natural that it should be included in the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This inclusion and cooperation should take various forms. In some countries, like the Dominican Republic, the government has created a special inter-institutional commission for sustainable development, whose objective is "to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in its three dimensions, through public policies reflected in planning instruments".

We acknowledge and encourage initiatives taken in this sense. However, we propose a higher level of participation by civil society in these endeavours. The composition of national or regional commissions should guarantee a membership comprised at least 30 percent by civil society. Commissions of this sort should also expressly provide for and encourage the participation of the private sector, through the inclusion of business associations. It should also include local governments and academia.

For example, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, an institution created by the Barcelona Convention, is made up of 40 members. Rotating representatives from local authorities, business communities, NGOs, experts and academics, comprise 18 of them and that represents almost 50 percent of its total membership.

A wider and more inclusive structure can guarantee a multiplicity of points of view and experiences that will result in the proposal of more effective and efficient measures for the implementation of the development agenda. The outcome document could take note of the relevance of inclusiveness in this effort.

The Ministerial Declaration should also encourage the inclusion of a scientific panel in National or Regional Sustainable Development Commissions. For developing countries, one major concern is the low levels of investment in research and development, which typically results in a scientific community that is either inexistent or with very limited reach.

Including a scientific panel in the membership of the body responsible for sustainable development promotion and supervision, using national human resources as well as international cooperation in the field can result in better-informed Commissions for Sustainable Development at the national and regional level. Such is the case we have in Finland, where an expert panel gives input to the Commission about the main obstacles for sustainable development, while at the same time identifying necessary research areas.

The scientific panel's findings could be used as basis to make proposals for public-private partnership opportunities. These new PPPs could help create and

shape new markets that are SDG oriented. The inclusion of the business sector is, again, key for finding effective multisectoral solutions.

We must learn some lessons from the Millennium Development Goals: inclusiveness at all levels is crucial to achieve an effective global impact. Moreover, the state of the global economy calls for dramatic increases in the efficiency of complex global efforts such as the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

Let us build upon the remarkable and unprecedented effort of inclusion we witnessed at the Open Working Group for the SDGs and the same time seize the opportunity to make the implementation of the agenda even more inclusive than in its creation.

Statement

It is our pleasure to participate in this particular meeting, as we wish that our short contribution will be meaningful and useful as well. We believe that the outcomes of this conference will pave the way towards the best means to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We want to recall the positive and negative results that have emerged during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and turn the previously successful implementation experiences into practical steps that enhance execution and success.

From our perspective, the transformation process is based on some critical procedures. These procedures, in our point of view, can be summarized as follows:

1. Make the sustainable development goals that were adopted as an advisory guide, mandatory for all local planning ministries in the Member States of the United Nations, and integrate the aims into national development plans, where the results will be reflected positively on improving the rate of growth in the countries concerned.

2. The NGOs with consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council must be involved in the transformation process, by giving them a real opportunity to participate as active partners in the implementation of the SDGs. This will help all inhabitants of the countries involved, not just the official authorities, to monitor results and to translate the phrase, "leave no one behind" into reality on the ground.

3. Intensify efforts to resolve all the disputes and conflicts in the regions of the world where tensions exist, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, where security and stability are essential factors in the development process.

4. Regional and continental organizations are urged to involve civil society organizations actively in their activities. It is also recommended to encourage the concerned organizations to develop their operating mechanisms with a transparent management style, in particular the African Union and the Arabic League.

5. The commitment concerning the provision of essential resources to implement the SDGs has been made. Therefore, we hope to mobilize the private and public sector to ensure the precise and efficient contribution from all. Because the implementation process requires capacious financial resources, we therefore propose that the banks issue a specific credit bond for this process under the name "SDGs bond".

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Statement submitted by Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

16-08362 (E) 260516

Please recycle

Statement

2015 was a major year for international development as United Nations delegates met in Addis Abba and New York to reflect the new realities and challenges that the world is facing. To reflect this new turn, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development and Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo have campaigned for two integral development reforms: building capacity in developing countries through technology transfer to address national and regional priorities, and promoting the role of innovation and multi-stakeholder partnerships to meet the enhanced financing needs of this new agenda.

Our Foundations have been active contributors to the debates of the Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations. Advocating for the inclusion of technology transfer in goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have stressed the need to empower developing countries to develop their own technology infrastructure, by supporting resource and knowledge transfer, key ingredients to self-sufficiency. Indeed, last May, former President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic and President of these Foundations moderated a High Level panel stressing the need to promote triangular cooperation, so that the technological gap between North and South does not widen, and sustainable development is promoted in the South.

An unprecedented amount of financial resources will be needed to fulfill the demands of this development agenda. In its 2013 report, "Tackling the Infrastructure Finance Deficit", the World Bank estimated that infrastructure needs of developing countries would total around US$1 trillion per year through 2020, with an additional US$200 to US$300 billion per year to ensure investments are climate resilient. Given such figures, current investment patterns will simply not deliver sustainable development. Thankfully, over the last decade a proliferation of innovative financing for development mechanisms have arisen, including the airline ticket tax and social impact bonds. There are opportunities for governments to help scale up these initiatives by partnering with them and pledging an annual amount. Engaging the private sector will also be a vital way of delivering financial products to communities that need them the most. The current use of mobile phones to make pension payments in African highlights valuable technological services that the private sector could help expand upon to provide further financial products to remote rural communities in the form of microloans. As the Secretary-General stated in "Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level", the high-level political forum should champion innovative practices to engage non-State actors in the new development agenda.

There are numerous opportunities to raise and deliver resources facilitated through technology empowerment. It is imperative for the United Nations development system to recognize them in its funding practices and partnership approaches if we are to realize the transformative development agenda laid out in Rio+20 and leave no one behind.

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Statement submitted by High Atlas Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

16-08363 (E) 260516

Please recycle

Statement

There is a common denominator among successful human development projects, be they in the field of education, health, economic growth, cultural preservation or the environment, namely that the project beneficiaries themselves participated in their design, management and overall control.

After decades — centuries even — of development interventions and the implementation of strategies to promote human services, the mountain of evidence accumulated worldwide clearly points to popular participation as the primary determinant of successful sustainable development.

The definition of sustainability itself has evolved since its original conception in the late 1980s. Rather than merely emphasizing untenable levels of consumption of natural resources, it has expanded to include a multiplicity of factors — economic, political, cultural, technical, financial, historic, climatic, and more — that bear on the longevity of development projects. Participatory methodology enables the consideration of the wide range of factors mentioned above.

Key strategies employed enable the broad-based catalyzing of community meetings in rural and urban settings. Fundamentally, it should be recognized that facilitators of community dialogue are essential in order to ensure that (a) local meetings are widely attended (b) all voices have the opportunity to be expressed and heard and (c) the community data thus generated is organized and made available to local people so that they may make the most informed decisions possible.

The following recommendations seek to create bottom-up, grassroots participatory development movements, driven by community-owned projects and diverse partnerships.

1. Facilitators of participatory community planning may be literally anyone who has the opportunity to interact with community members and who is accepted in turn in that intermediary or third party role. Facilitators may be — among others — schoolteachers, civil society organizers, government technicians, elected representatives, dedicated women and youth, cooperative members, private sector workers, village leaders or volunteers.

2. Community-driven development that is intended to be launched and supported across municipalities, provinces and regions will thrive to the utmost in a context of decentralization. Decentralization is a state of mind. Even as subnational-level officials may have the right to dedicate resources to local human development, the habit of decades of deferring to Rabat has become so engrained that very often they do not exercise the power they possess.

3. Power ought to be transferred as close to the people as possible — in Morocco this is the municipal level. The Kingdom also created a fine example in the form of its 2010 amendment of the national municipal charter, with its requirement for locally elected representatives of the people to create municipal development plans based on direct popular participation.

Without essential experiential training in the application of participatory methodology at government level therefore, both effective decentralization and the creation of workable municipal development plans will remain elusive.

It would be helpful to see that the implementation of community projects resulting from a participatory process not only advances the goals of the Post-2015 Agenda but also helps construct a decentralized system of decision-making and management.

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Statement submitted by Hydroaid, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Statement

Today, more than ever, administrations are called to focus on environmental and development issues, despite critical financial and political conditions. However, the real possibility of adopting policies that concretely address environmental crisis, fight climate change or match development needs, is limited. Local institutions, in particular, tend to be motivated only under considerable pressure. More frequently, dealing with major environmental problems requires large investments of time and money, although it produces benefits that will be measured for generations to come.

Hydroaid's mission is to contribute to efficient, integrated and sustainable water resources management through training and capacity-building in areas characterized by severe environmental and climate vulnerabilities. Our experience, as an Association composed of both public and private members, provides us with insights on the processes that link commitments on water cooperation to actions, and actions to results, within different institutions. This point of view brought us to formulate 4 directions where steps can be made to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with special regard to Goal 6:

1. Empowering participation opportunities for local groups in the formulation of development policies. Enhanced engagement and a sense of responsibility for the entities involved, and of the administrations that must coordinate them, derive from feeling a part of a larger forum and has positive effects on the improvement of living standards through the protection and effective management of threatened natural resources.

2. Targeting beneficiaries in an effective way to include all interests and needs, stimulate community participation and a sense of project ownership that facilitates cooperation efforts. Appropriately targeted groups become active in the decision making and development processes of their local environment. Better management of natural resources begins from better management of human resources and their ability to disseminate know-how. Targeting can be improved through monitoring and impact evaluation, particularly by the implementation of circular feedback-harvesting systems where the inputs collected are used to increase future efficiency and commitment.

3. Improving communication among experts in support of capacity development where interdisciplinary expertise and integrated approaches allow knowledge-sharing, which is transformed into skills that are, in turn, converted into actions.

4. Promoting jobs for sustainability as a goal for supporting both employment and natural resources governance, two sectors facing sustainability challenges that could find at least a partial solution in the activation of such a loop system. Water resources and sanitation are areas where investments could be greatly developed and bring even greater advantages, turning a weakness into strength. Professional training, especially, is the tool that paves the way for new jobs where the acquired skills find a concrete application, thus completing the circle.

Policies for sustainability can drive institutions towards better management of resources and communities. Similarly, individuals orient their behaviors according to a shared vision that can be inspired by them. Solid administrations with the support and engagement of local communities, public/private partnerships and stakeholders are more likely to withstand the shocks and pressures caused by human or environmental causes while contributing to the SDGs.

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Statement submitted by IBREA Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

Turning ideas into actual results is perhaps one of the most challenging tasks we face as human beings. The UN has gone a long way in creating a global agenda that all countries adhere to politically and intellectually. As it has been recognized in many forums, to implement that agenda, there needs to be a collective effort from all actors, ranging from corporations, the media, academic community, to civil society. As the UN and its members are working to turn these commitments into real outcomes, IBREA Foundation would like to offer the following recommendations, which stem from our experience working on the ground with the people, and from our understanding of the human brain and body.

1. People are the key. We are talking about human issues, so the centre of those issues is people. When it comes to engaging people, beyond educating in the classic sense of the word, we need to motivate, and help them find it in themselves to work towards the SDGs in their daily lives and choices. People should feel a part of the implementation process, rather than feel it is a moral commitment of exceptional individuals or something that comes with an authority role in the government or other sector. People should understand that we are working on this together and that everyone is important.

2. Start with what you can do. The SDGs are the loftiest goals that we all share, but we need steps to get there, the steps that are possible in each moment for each collaborating actor. All that "small" work, if it is on the right track, will accumulate and eventually lead to the desired, bigger goals. We suggest all actors accept their own limitations and realities, and just move forward to the best of their ability.

3. Check regularly. Checking that we are on the right track, that the money and effort spent is actually getting us a step closer to achieving the SDGs is crucial. If not, then we have to proactively evaluate, take corrective action, and improve our efficiency. If we miss the things that are not working, and fool ourselves for the sake of a good image, we end up wasting a lot of energy and money, resulting in physical and mental fatigue. Accepting the reality (at least internally) without covering anything is important.

4. Communicate well. When it comes to communication on the SDGs implementation process, we can spend a lot of time talking about things that might not be essential, or that we do not all genuinely have an interest in. Let us talk about what truly matters. Let us also make sure we communicate what we all care about. Often times, we talk for the sake of talking but are the people in the conversation all genuinely caring about the subject? If not, then we need to change the subject, find one that all the people involved in the communication truly care about and share a concern for.

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Statement submitted by Institut Jules-Destrée, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Statement

With the Destree Institute (Institut Jules-Destrée), an Non-Governmental Organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2012, the Millennia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation is developing new concrete actions for women's empowerment and gender equality, such as Millennia2025 Solidarity-Women (www.millennia2015.org/Solidari_Femmes) and the new Millennia2025 She4Innovation (www.millennia2015.org/She4Innovation). With the United Nations ECOSOC, we believe that "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda by moving from commitments to results" is essential, particularly by "Ensuring that no one is left behind". New responsible and sustainable solutions for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are urgently needed for the current and future generations of humankind and, for this engagement today, women and girls are particularly welcomed to voice their views and ideas.

Using the foresight method with the information society as a main tool, the mission of the Millennia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation is to examine strategies that will lead towards more equality and solidarity, while respecting cultural and linguistic diversity. It also works on the results produced by the Millennia2025 International Voluntary Researchers' network to implement the action plan finalized with the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (www.millennia2015.org/unesco_2012_actes).

The Millennia2025 She4Innovation survey uses the Millennia2025 Strategic Axes (SA) (www.millennia2015.org/Strategic_Axes) which is now uniquely combined with the SDGs.

SDG4. Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
SA-2: To help women to build a personal and collective capital of freedom of movement and decision, of quality of life, of education, of training, and of work.
=> Keyword: Education

SDG5. Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
SA-5: To give the same rights to the girls than to the boys in the fields of education and training, to open all the channels and to commit them in common projects.
=> Keyword: Equality

SDG16. Peace, Justice and strong institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
SA-1: To better respect and protect physical, moral and psychological integrity of women. To reinforce their juridical capacities, assure them of the non-impunity of their aggressors.
=> Keyword: Justice

Of these, the international survey of Millennia2025 She4Innovation covers three sets of combinations.

The process that led us to combine the three SA/SDGs provides the basic assumption that Economic leadership (SDG-8 and SA-6) is the very innovative solution to develop women for women's and girls' futures:

SDG8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
SA-6: To improve access of women in social and economic activities which carry performance, efficiency, equity and social responsibilities.
=> Keyword: Economic leadership

This is why we need your input to the international survey of Millennia2025 She4Innovation: www.millennia2015.org/She4Innovation. Your contribution to this survey will include you in further discussions based on the results.